

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 56th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

JOINT APPROP SUBCOMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN STEVE VICK**, on **January 18, 1999** at
8:05 A.M., in Room 405 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Steve Vick, Chairman (R)
Sen. Arnie Mohl, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Chris Christiaens (D)
Rep. Stan Fisher (R)
Sen. Dale Mahlum (R)
Rep. Red Menahan (D)
Sen. Debbie Shea (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Greg DeWitt, Legislative Branch
Shirley Moore, OBPP
Linsey Mortensen, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) : Department of Military Affairs

Introduction of the Department by Gene Prendercast, acting
general for the Department of Military Affairs

HEARING ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

Informational Testimony: Description, history, and budget
requests of the department given by **Jim Jacobson**, director of
Veterans Affairs. **EXHIBIT(jih13a01)** **EXHIBIT(jih13a02)**
He also discussed some changes on the tables in the *Legislative
Budget Analysis* book. **EXHIBIT(jih13a03)**

Talk about the new proposals

EXHIBIT(jih13a04)

EXHIBIT(jih13a05)

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 1.1 - 26.7}

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

Chairman Vick asked if Montana had more veterans than Nebraska.

Jim Jacobson replied that Montana does have more veterans per capita. **Chairman Vick** asked if that number included veterans that were residents at the time or those that have been residents. **Jim Jacobson** replied that that was for veterans currently living in Montana.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 23.5 - 24.7}

Senator Christiaens asked what the size of the proposed cemetery.

Jim Jacobson replied that the proposed site will be 31 acres and joins three other cemeteries. **Senator Christiaens** asked for a break down of the equipment that they wanted to purchase.

EXHIBIT(jih13a06)

Senator Mohl asked if the spending for the new cemetery would be general or federal funds. **Jim** replied that it would be solely federal funding and he would talk to long-range building, and it is a million dollars. **Senator Mohl** asked if you could go to the Department of Transportation and get any of their old equipment. **Jim** replied that they would have to pay for it, and he has gone through them to get trucks and other equipment.

Representative Fisher asked where the money goes when one state agency sells equipment to another state agency. **Jim** stated that it is used to off set some of there replacement costs.

(Discussion from committee members)

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 24.7 - 32.3}{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0.4 - 2}

HEARING ON OPERATIONS SUPPORT

Informational Testimony: **Doug Booker**, director of operations support, talked about what the division does and how it works with other divisions and groups. He also went over the budget requests of the division.

John Nugent, education services office for the Air National Guard, discussed the Montana National Guard scholarship program.

EXHIBIT(jih13a07)

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 2.5 - 19.8}

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

Senator Mahlum asked if they already had fee waivers from the universities. **Mr. Nugent** replied that HB 17, passed in the 1997 legislature, created a fee waiver, but they were not able to implement the waiver because the university system at the time was not able to endorse or fund the waivers throughout the state.

Senator Mohl asked who qualified for the scholarships. **John Nugent** replied that new volunteers and people who are in the National Guard now. (discussed how it would work with the G-I Bill)

Chairman Vick asked if they intended to add to the number of scholarships in the next biennium. **Nugent** replied that they would ask for additional 50 scholarships in the first year and another 50 for the second biennium. **Chairman Vick** asked what percent would go for retention and what percent would go to new recruits. **Nugent** replied that they have not yet decided on the percentage.

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 19.8 - 30.2}

HEARING ON ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Informational Testimony: **Mike McCabe**, chief of staff for the Army National Guard, gave an overview of the guard and went over the budget requests.

Chris Denning, oversees the operations and maintenance of the armories around the state. He went over the proposed budget and made changes. **EXHIBIT(jih13a08)**

{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0.4 - 16.3}

Ralph Decunzo, administrator of contracting and construction division, discussed what the guard intends to do with their buildings.

{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 26.3 - 32.3}

John Wheeler, manager of the department of Environmental Affairs, talked about his job, and what the department does with the military. He also discussed what they plan to do with the money funded to them.

{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 3.8 - 6.3}

Deputy Chris Perez, Assistant Chief of Staff for information management for the Army Guard, talked about his responsibilities and the budget requests.

{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 8.9 - 13.3}

EXHIBIT(jih13a10)EXHIBIT(jih13a11)EXHIBIT(jih13a12)

Doug Booker explained DP 1214 and DP 1217.

{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 13.3 - 15}

Questions from Committee Members:

Chairman Vick asked what armories would be closed. **Chris Denning** replied that the armories that would close would be Deer Lodge, Shelby, and Plentywood. He also replied that the money from those closures would be used for maintenance of other armories.

Discussion on the reimbursements for the use of the armories.

Representative Fisher asked what would become of the closed facilities. **Denning** replied that the state owned buildings would go to DNRC.

Senator Mahlum asked what happens to the equipment from the closed armories. **Denning** replied that they would allocate the equipment to other armories.

Chairman Vick asked if the decision for the closures are made at the federal or state level. **Mike McCabe** replied that the closures were based on a demographic study that was done at the state level.

{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 16.3 - 26.3}

{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0.4 - 3.8; Comments : discussion on the opening and closing of buildings}

Representative Fisher asked why so much was needed for only four employees. **Mr. Wheeler** replied that the money goes to studies done because of mandates by the army. The army also helps fund the studies. Only \$14,000 is from the general fund.

{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 6.3 - 8.9}

Senator Christiaens asked what kind of coordination has taken place with other programs utilizing distance learning. **Tony Herbert**, administrator of the information services division in the Department of Administration, talked about distance learning

throughout the armories, and where the systems are located.

EXHIBIT(jih13a09)

{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 15 - 21}

*{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 21 - 29.2; Comments :
Discussion on duplication and funding for distance learning}*

Senator Christiaens asked about who can get the scholarship and if it was in conjunction with the GI Bill. **John Nugent** explained how the new scholarship would work with the GI Bill. He also explained why they were not given any fee waivers.

*{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 29.2 - 30.6}{Tape :
3; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0 - 3.1}*

HEARING ON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Informational Testimony: Lieutenant Brad Livingston, representing the members of the Air National Guard, described what the guards duties are and said that they are not asking for any new funding, but do have some adjustments.

{Tape : 3; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 3.1 - 6.1}

HEARING ON DISASTER COORDINATION RESPONSE

Informational Testimony: **Jim Greene**, administrator of disaster emergency services, stated the purpose for the division and went over the budget proposals.

Questions from Committee Members:

Senator Mahlum asked if federal funds run out will the general fund be enough for the biennium. **Mr. Greene** replied that "worst case scenerio" it would.

Discussion on the language recommendations and federal funding.

{Tape : 3; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 6.1 - 23}

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:38 A.M.

REP. STEVE VICK, Chairman

LINSEY MORTENSEN, Secretary

SV/LM

EXHIBIT (jih13aad)